

Capsule Summary
SM-660
Saw Mill at St. Inigoes
St. Inigoes
Private

c. 1970s?

The Saw Mill at St. Inigoes is a private, open air mill operated by Emerick Norris near the rural crossroads community of St. Inigoes, Maryland. The ephemeral nature of the mill is primarily communicated by its lack of a permanent shelter. Situated under a large deciduous tree, the mill consists of a lumber track, a belt-driven engine, a large, vertical, circular-saw blade, a sawdust pit, and a lumber rack. Overall, the mill recalls the saw milling and lumber industry in St. Mary's County. While other saw mills were periodically operated near the Ellis Grist Mill (SM-609) and at the Cecil Mill (SM-382), the industry has never been substantially documented. This is largely because saw mills never had a considerable supply of lumber to maintain them as a lucrative operation. Large scale lumber operations occurred in the northern end of the county during the early twentieth century, but even then loggers built impermanent facilities and workers shanties. Once a forest was depleted equipment and facilities had to move in order to move on to the next workable forest. While strictly a private endeavor, the Saw Mill at St. Inigoes recalls this under documented, but nonetheless important theme in St. Mary's County history.

SM-660, Saw Mill at St. Inigoes
St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Modern Period, 1930-present
Historic Period Theme:	Industry Agriculture

Resource Type

Category:	Structure
Historic Environment:	Rural
Historic Function and Use:	Open Air Saw Mill
Known Design Source:	None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic St. Inigoes Farm, The Church Property

and/or common Saw Mill at St. Inigoes (pref.)

2. Location

street & number E side of Beachville Rd. approx. 0.1 mile S of Webster Field Back Gate not for publication

city, town Beachville ___X___ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Md county St. Mary's TM-67, G-20, P-31

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___X___ occupied	___X___ agriculture	___ museum
___X___ building(s)	___X___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___X___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___X___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Roman Catholic Clergy c/o Reverend and William K. McGroarty, S.J.

street & number 5704 Roland Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Md 21210-1334

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber 134

street & number folio 475

city, town Leonardtown state Md

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. SM-660

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Saw Mill at St. Inigoes is located on the east side of Beachville Road approximately 2.3 miles southwest of the intersection of Beachville Road and Maryland Route 5 near St. Inigoes, Maryland. The mill is oriented on a north/south axis and is situated at the edge of a wooded tract, near a soybean field. The mill is approached via a small driveway that extends to the east of Beachville Road.

The ephemeral nature of the Saw Mill at St. Inigoes is communicated by its lack of a permanent shelter. Shaded only by a large deciduous tree, this open air saw mill consists of a large vertical saw blade, an engine, a lumber track, a sawdust pit, and a lumber rack. The large, approximately 3 foot in diameter, circular saw blade is operated by a belt driven engine. Lumber is drawn across the blade by a lumber track. The lumber track consists of two wooden rails topped by metal strips. These strips guide a series of metal wheels that support a wooden undercarriage. A system of levers, pulleys, and cables are built into the track and undercarriage. When the saw mill is in operation, this system moves the undercarriage past the blade. Three clamps attached to the undercarriage hold the lumber steady.

The actual process of milling begins on the south side of the structure. Here, ten to twenty foot sections of logs are rolled off the rack and onto the undercarriage where they are then held steady. A lever located on the north side of the undercarriage is then pulled and the undercarriage rolls along the track and slowly past the blade. The resulting dust then falls into a pre-dug pit. The sawed plank is then placed on a crude table located near the north side of the mill. The mill is still in periodic operation.

8. Significance

Survey No. SM-660

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-660

See Significance 8.0.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 985.384 acres (2 acres around mill)Quadrangle name St. Mary's CityQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Dept. of Planning & Zoningdate 8-17-98street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Md

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SM-660, Saw Mill at St. Inigoes
St. Mary's County
8.1 Significance

Chain-of-Title

The Saw mill at St. Inigoes lies on property that has been owned by the Jesuit Order since between 1634-1638. Originally patented for 2000 acres, the property presently contains just over 900 acres. (For more information concerning the chain-of-title for the property see Edward Beitzell's The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County, Maryland (Abell, Md: n.p., 1976). The saw mill was erected during their ownership.



214-666

Sum. M. H. at St. Jorges

St. Mary's County

Kirk, Florida

July/03

old SHN

Looking N

1 of 2



SM-660

South Mill at St. Francis

St. Mary's County

Kirk Panzetta

July/97

old SHPO

Looking S

2 of 2